

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 INR-05 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7620

AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T AMMAN 2099

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS PFOR JO SA US

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE VISIT CROWN PRINCE HASSAN TO SAUDI
ARABIA

REF: USDAO JIDDA IR 6 884 0051 APR 76(DTG 191030Z APR 76)

1. WITH REF TO PARA B REFTTEL, EMBASSY NOTED
EARLIER IN REPORTING THAT CROWN PRINCE HASSAN INTENDS
TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA AND CERTAIN OTHER GULF COUNTRIES
IN CONNECTION WITH AN INVITATION TO VISIT KUWAIT IN
LATE APRIL AND EARLY MAY. CROWN PRINCE HAS CONFIRMED
TO US HE WILL BE IN RIYADH ON APRIL 26.

2. CROWN PRINCE HAS MADE CLEAR TO US BASIC PURPOSE
OF HIS VISIT IS TO DISCUSS WITH SAUDI AND OTHER GULF
OFFICIALS JORDAN'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS. CROWN PRINCE
IS HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR
DEVELOPMENT IN JORDAN AND DOES NOT NORMALLY INVOLVE
HIMSELF IN FOREIGN POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY WHICH
ARE THE SPECIAL PROVINCE OF KING AND PRIME MINISTER.

3. IN RECENT TALKS WITH AMBASSADOR CROWN PRINCE HAS
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INDICATED SPECIAL CONCERN ABOUT JORDAN'S DRIFT

TOWARD SOVIET WEAPONRY. IT IS NOT INCONCEIVABLE THAT HE WILL RAISE THE ISSUE OF HAWK AND OTHER AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FUNDING IN SAUDI ARABIA IN PASSING. IF HE DOES SO IT WILL BE CONTRARY TO THE POLICY OF HIS BROTHER THE KING WHICH IS THAT JORDAN HAS DONE ALL IT CAN TO SEEK SAUDI FUNDING INITIATIVE HAS BEEN HANDED TO THE SAUDIS AFTER THEY MADE THEIR \$300 MILLION OFFER WITH JORDAN INDICATING THAT IT WISHES TO USE THAT FUNDING ELSEWHERE THAN THE UNITED STATES AND ASKING SAUDIS NOW TO DEPOSIT MONEY TO JORDAN'S ACCOUNT.

4. THUS WHILE CROWN PRINCE MAY DISCUSS ITEM IN PASSING IT NOT PRINCIPAL OR PROBABLY EVEN AUTHORIZED PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT. NEVERTHELESS HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE SAUDI JORDAN DEAL GO THROUGH AND COULD BE A USEFUL ADVOCATE FOR MORE SAUDI FUNDING EVEN IT IF COMPETES WITH HIS OWN PRINCIPAL DESIRES TO HAVE SAUDI FINANCING BACKING FOR JORDAN'S FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

5. HASSAN IS LIKELY ALSO TO BE ABLE TO CONFIRM TO SAUDIS IF THEY CONTINUE TO HAVE QUESTIONS, THAT JORDAN IS STILL INTERESTED IN PURCHASING AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM FROM THE UNITED STATES WITH SAUDI FINANCING ALONG THE LINES PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED.

6. WE EXPECT TO HAVE INFORM CONTACTS WITH HASSAN POSSIBLY IN NEXT FEW HOURS. IF THESE DEVELOP ANY FURTHER INFORMATION WE WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT AND JIDDA INFORMED. PICKERING

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